

# Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

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**Executive Director** 



### **MVPC** Established in 1959

#### Promote

- Cooperation
- Coordination
- Orderly Development

#### Identify

- Common Challenges
- Form Partnerships

#### Professional Staff

- Municipal Managers and Planners
- Experienced in Government, Transportation, Economic Development, Land Use, Geographic Information Systems





## Regional Outlook

#### Vision

"A Strong, Diversified and Sustained Regional Economy built on Developing the Region's Growth Areas with a Strong Connection between Workforce Development and Emerging Industry Needs"



### Navigator

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
- 2008 CEDS
  - Identified Priority Development Areas (PDA)
  - Identified Priority Preservation Areas (PPA)
  - Identified the Infrastructure needed

Commonwealth Planning Ahead for Growth
State Designated Priority Development Areas



#### 2013 CEDS

- Increase Local Capacity to Promote and Manage Growth in PDAs
- Enhanced Marketing of the Region
- Identify Workforce Development Gaps
- Support Expanding Firms and Encourage Innovation and Cluster Development



## Why a Cluster Analysis

#### Percent of Employment in Manufacturing

Merrimack Valley: 20.8%

Massachusetts: 8.9%

United States: 10.8%

## "How can we Support the Manufacturing Sector in the Valley?"



## Regional Industry Cluster Analysis

#### **Purpose**

- Identify Strengths inn the Valley's Economy
- Support Outreach to the Business community
- Highlight Areas of Need for Industries that are Driving Regional Growth
- Develop Action Program to Address Needs



## **Industry Analysis**

- STATS America
- The U.S. Cluster Mapping Project
- Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council
- State Studies
- MVPC Internal Data Analysis



## Clusters Driving Regional Growth

- Electronics
- Life Sciences
- Food Manufacturers
- Metal Fabricators



## **Key Findings**

- Workforce Challenges: Certain Skills are Difficult to Find
- Excellent Highway Access
- Industrial Space is at a Reasonable cost
- Longer Term Concerns Over Rising Costs and Global Forces
  - Health Care
  - Taxes, Workers comp, Regulations, etc.
  - Access to Capital



## **Going Forward**

- Roundtable/Networking Group for Cluster Businesses
- Energy and Health Care Consortiums
- Targeted Workforce Assistance
- Enhanced Marketing of Industrial/Business Parks
- Addressing constraints
  - Wetlands
  - Road conditions
  - Access to Capital